



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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State Health Department Launches Cribs for Kids Program

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health this week launched the Cribs for Kids program, according to Kjersti Hintz, director of the North Dakota SIDS Management Program for the Department of Health.

Research has identified a safe-sleep environment as a key factor in reducing the rates of infant deaths. The national Cribs for Kids is a safe-sleep education program with the goal of reducing the risk of infant injury and death due to unsafe sleep environments. Since 1998, the national program has made an impact on the rates of babies dying from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and accidental suffocation through the donation of thousands of cribs.

The North Dakota Cribs for Kids Program is a pilot program that partners with the national Cribs for Kids program. The Department of Health secured funding to purchase program-approved, safe cribs at a discounted price that are then provided to mothers of newborns who meet certain criteria. The North Dakota program is funded by grants totaling \$11,500 from the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Bismarck and Fargo.

The North Dakota Cribs for Kids Program works with the Department of Health's Optimal Pregnancy Outcome Program to identify mothers who qualify for the free cribs. The mothers receive personal safe-sleep education in addition to the cribs.

"We know that a safe-sleep environment is key to preventing accidental suffocation of infants and reducing the rates of SIDS deaths," Hintz said. "This program will help teach new

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mothers about the importance of ensuring safe-sleep practices. We thank the Bismarck and Fargo Ronald McDonald Charities for funding this pilot project. Hopefully, we will be able to secure funding in the future to help us continue and expand this important program so that even more mothers can receive safe cribs and safety education.”

More information about the Cribs for Kids Program is available by calling the North Dakota SIDS Management Program at 701.328.2784.

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